

Has there been any silver lining in adjusting to Covid compliance?

COVID-19 has helped us facilitate a hybrid working environment, which provides options for our team and helps create positive attitudes for our team members. In addition, for some of our clients, co-parenting relationships have improved because of increased communication and problem solving for “remote schooling,” and the cooperation required has created an environment for success for their students.

If it appears that it will become a contentious divorce, what 3 major steps should a party take to protect their interests?

First, it is critical to hire a Certified Family Law Specialist. Second, if there is an issue of domestic violence, it is critical to have a safety plan – this usually involves having a “go bag” and a plan to leave the house if necessary. Third, if you are not the spouse that is in charge of the finances, it is important to have a reserve for the necessities of life.

Do you handle both men and women seeking representation?

Absolutely. We represent both men and women in all areas of family law. We are adept at working with high net-worth clients or those who own their own businesses or are involved in a family business. In addition, my military background provides an inside perspective on the particular needs of military families. Ms. Leslie Ryland, another attorney with our firm who is also a certified specialist, is known throughout the county as an expert in contentious custody litigation.

Have you found your stellar background in tax law a powerful tool in deciphering complicated business resolutions?

Yes. My Masters of Law degree and experience as a tax consultant are very helpful in matters involving high-value property, stock options, pensions, family businesses

and other assets. Not only am I able to understand and assist clients with their tax and financial planning needs, but I am also able to ensure their assets are protected in a divorce situation.

Having overseen a vast multitude of cases, what important features stand out that you feel distinguish you from other firms?

Schaffer Family Law Group is comprised of aggressive yet empathetic advocates who have experience in nearly every area of family law and who specialize in handling sophisticated, highly complex and multi-faceted cases. And, although we are always prepared to litigate when it becomes necessary, we also work collaboratively towards favorable settlements through mediation whenever possible. Our honesty, integrity, professional ethical standards, thorough understanding of all facets of family law and our sincere desire to help families find a way to successfully move forward are the cornerstones of our firm and the values that are embraced by every attorney in every single matter.

Knowing the impact that divorce can have on children, are you supportive of certain charitable giving groups that provide support to the children?

Yes. Giving back to the community is very important to me. One of the organizations we support is Kids’ Turn San Diego. Kids’ Turn is a non-profit organization for children and parents experiencing family separations or military transitions. They help children discover their voice to communicate their thoughts and feelings about their family situation and give parents the daily tools they need to be able to communicate and understand how to put their child first in their relationship, without conflict. We also assist Casa Cornelia with their mission of humanitarian immigration including pro bono cases for Special Immigrant Juvenile Petitions. Also, Ms. Jennifer Lee, one of the attorneys with our firm, is the Treasurer of the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego, an organization that also does pro bono volunteer work and other community outreach. ■



Attorney Schaffer and members of her legal team will share their expertise on Family Law in forthcoming issues of Discover Magazines.

858.509.7907 | sandiegofamilyattorneys.com